

Wednesday 2 September 2026 — The Roslin Institute

Time	Speaker / Presenter	Programme
09:00–09:15	John Hammond & Kate Sutton <i>(The Roslin Institute, The University of Edinburgh, UK)</i>	Welcome to AIRG 2026
09:15–10:15	Ian Brown OBE <i>(The Pirbright Institute, UK)</i>	Keynote Speaker I
10:15–11:00	Session I: Host–Pathogen Interactions I	Chair: Kate Sutton
10 min + 2 min Q&A	Jyothsna Girish <i>(University of Maryland, US)</i>	Development of turkey primary intestinal organoids to model enteric viral pathogenesis and host innate immune responses
	Enes Fahri Tezcan <i>(Charles University, Czechia)</i>	Temporal dynamics of conjunctival transcriptomic profiles during the house finch immune response to Mycoplasma gallisepticum
	Muhammad Yakubu Abare <i>(University of Bristol, UK)</i>	Innate Immune Reprogramming of Chicken Macrophages by Sodium Butyrate Enhances ROS-mediated Antimicrobial Responses in vitro
	Kateřina Marková <i>(Charles University, Czechia)</i>	Changes in differential leucocyte counts and gastrointestinal microbiota composition associated with digestive and behavioural disorders in parrots
11:00–11:30	Refreshment Break	
11:30–13:00	Session II: Innate Immunology	Chair: Andrew Broadbent
10 min + 2 min Q&A	Samantha Sives <i>(The Roslin Institute, The University of Edinburgh, UK)</i>	Comparative avian intestinal organoids reveal divergent host–pathogen responses during HPAIV H5N1 infection
	Miranda Nel <i>(University of Exeter, UK)</i>	The antiviral functions of avian orthologues of viperin against IAV
	Christine Jansen <i>(Wageningen University and Research, Netherlands)</i>	Metabolic regulation of chicken natural killer cell activation
	Sophia Melis <i>(Wageningen University and Research, Netherlands)</i>	The 20E5 and 7C1 mAbs define functionally distinct chicken NK cell subsets
	Faisal Anjum <i>(University of Bristol, UK)</i>	A Self-Renewing Chicken Macrophage Line from Embryonic Liver for Modelling Tissue-Resident Innate Immunity
	Samer Halabi <i>(The Roslin Institute, The University of Edinburgh, UK)</i>	What Engineering Biology at Easter Bush (EB2) and the National Avian Research Facility (NARF) can offer to the Global Avian Research Community?
13:00–14:00	Lunch — buffet	
14:00–15:15	Session III: Host–Pathogen Interactions II	Chair: Samer Halabi
10 min + 2 min Q&A	Taylor Hanford <i>(The Roslin Institute, University of Edinburgh, UK)</i>	Chicken Three-Dimensional Intestinal Organoids as an In Vitro Model of Environmental Stress and Disease Resilience
	Sina Bagheri <i>(University of Veterinary Medicine Vienna, Austria)</i>	In ovo exposure to avian pathogenic Escherichia coli stimuli reduces splenic γδ T-cell frequencies in developing chicken embryos
	Yaoyao Zhang <i>(The Pirbright Institute, UK)</i>	Mapping Chicken Immune Cell Landscapes During MDV-Induced Tumorigenesis
3 min	ECR flash talk	
	- Anum Ahmed <i>(University of Edinburgh, UK)</i> - Chutima Temnithirat <i>(University of Bristol, UK)</i> - Javeria Talat <i>(University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences Lahore, Pakistan)</i> - Kyung Youn Lee <i>(Seoul National University, Seoul, Korea, Republic of Yale University, CT, United States)</i> - Matthéo Foulard <i>(INRAE, Nouzilly, France)</i> - Motuma Debelo <i>(University of Veterinary Medicine, Austria)</i> - Suad Sheikh Suliman <i>(Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Beer Sheva, Israel)</i> - Tulio Spina de Lima <i>(São Paulo State University (Unesp), Brazil)</i>	
15:15–16:00	Refreshment Break & Poster Session I-Even-Numbered Posters	
16:00	Buses depart for Pollock Estate	
19:00–23:00	Social Event I South Hall Complex, Pollock Estate	
19:00	Buffet Meal followed by Pub Quiz	

Thursday 3 September 2026 — The Roslin Institute

09:00–10:45	Session IV: Adaptive Immunology I & Vaccines I	Chair: Rami Dalloul
10 min + 2 min Q&A	Theresa von Heyl (<i>Technische Universität München, Germany</i>)	scRNA-seq Reveals Cytolytic and Interferon Stimulated $\gamma\delta$ T Cells in TCR C β Knockout Chickens
	Sabrina Schleibinger (<i>Technische Universität München, Germany</i>)	Analyzing the role of S1PR1, CCR7 and PECAM-1 during chicken B cell development
	Emoke Szocs (<i>Semmelweis University, Hungary</i>)	Transcriptomic and immunophenotypic characterization of dendritic cells and macrophages in the avian bursa of Fabricius
	Luise Freier (<i>Friedrich-Loeffler-Institute, Germany</i>)	When Genetics Matter: Vaccination and Infection Responses in Local and Crossbred Chickens
	Mateusz Walczak (<i>MSD Animal Health, Netherlands</i>)	Broad cross-protection against IBDV enabled by an inactivated vaccine incorporating two antigenically distinct strains
	Fany Blanc (<i>Université Paris-Saclay, INRAE, AgroParisTech, GABI, France</i>)	Early-life immune phenotyping identifies candidate biomarkers of immunocompetence associated with broad vaccine responsiveness in laying hens
	Sonja Härtle (<i>Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München, Germany</i>)	MVA-H5: A Promising DIVA-Compatible Vaccine Platform for Birds Against Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza
	Michael Ratcliffe (<i>University of Toronto, Canada</i>)	Evolution of the bursa of Fabricius from secondary lymphoid tissue
10:45–11:15	Refreshment Break	
11:15–13:00	Session VI: Genetics, Genomics, Evolution & Emerging Tools	Chair: Michal Vinkler
10 min + 2 min Q&A	Michal Vinkler (<i>Charles University, Czechia</i>)	Divergent and convergent evolution in avian TLR4 receptor system
	Milena Brunner (<i>Technische Universität München, Germany</i>)	Genomic variability and structural organization of the chicken IgH D-gene locus
	Huaijun Zhou (<i>UC Davis, United States</i>)	Dissecting the Harderian Gland Immune Response to Avian Influenza Using Single-Cell Multiomics
	Daniel Divín (<i>Charles University, Czechia</i>)	Neuropeptide expression links to cytokine levels during acute and chronic peripheral inflammation and associates with behaviour in parrots
	Grace Schmidt (<i>Texas A&M University, United States</i>)	Identification of novel antiviral immune genes in a new T2T chicken genome
	Jim Kaufman (<i>Yale University, United States</i>)	Non-classical class II molecules in birds and mammals are induced by parasites
	Chantal van Everdingen (<i>Wageningen University and Research, Netherlands</i>)	Developing Functional Readouts to Investigate Trained Immunity in Chicken Monocytes
	Jeff Ling (<i>The Roslin Institute, University of Edinburgh, UK</i>)	An in vitro organoid model of leaky gut syndrome
13:00–13:30	Tour of Roslin Institute Building (Optional – TBC)	
13:30–14:30	Lunch — hot food	
14:30–15:30	Helen Sang OBE, FRSE, FRSB (<i>The Roslin Institute, The University of Edinburgh, UK</i>)	Keynote Speaker II Chair: Dr Theresa von Heyl
15:30–16:00	Refreshment Break & Poster Session III-Odd-Numbered Posters	
16:00	Buses depart for Pollock Estate	
19:00–23:00	Social Event II South Hall Complex, Pollock Estate	
19:00	Three-course meal followed by Ceilidh Dance	

Friday 4 September 2026 — The Roslin Institute

09:15–10:15	Ivan Rychlik (Veterinary Research Institute, Czech Republic)	Keynote Speaker III Chair Sonja Härtle
10:15–11:00	Session VII: Adaptive Immunology II	Chair: Sonja Härtle
10 min + 2 min Q&A	Simon Früh (Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München, Germany)	Characterization of bursa-infiltrating T cells following IBDV vaccination in chickens
	Dominik von La Roche (Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München, Germany)	Phenotypic characterization reveals tissue-specific features of chicken mucosal plasma cell populations
	Johanna Trapp (University of Veterinary Medicine Hannover, Germany)	Do $\gamma\delta$ T lymphocytes have an impact on the control of Infectious Bursal Disease Virus in the chicken gut?
11:00–11:30	Refreshment Break	
11:30–13:00	Session VIII: Vaccines II	Chair: Dieter Liebhart
10 min + 2 min Q&A	Nathaniel Nutsugah (Swedish University of Agriculture, Sweden)	Effect of dietary biochar on broiler chickens challenged with E. tenella infection
	Oenone Bodman-Harris (University of Surrey, UK)	Receptor1(R1)-Targeted Antigen Delivery Vaccines Enhance Activation of Chicken HD11 Cells in vitro
	Carlotta De Luca (University of Veterinary Medicine Vienna, Austria)	Chimeric fiber proteins of fowl adenoviruses (FAdVs) induce long-lasting humoral immune response in broiler breeders and their progeny
	Martine Boulianne (University of Montreal, Canada)	In ovo administration of Clostridium perfringens antigens elicits both humoral and cell-mediated immune responses in broiler chicks
	Janan Shoja Doost (University of Guelph, Canada)	Protective and tissue-specific immune responses following in ovo Marek's disease virus mRNA vaccination
13:00–13:30	Management Meeting & Close of Conference	
13:30–14:00	Lunch — packed rolls / sandwiches	

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